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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/071,872	02/07/2002	Waheguru Pal Singh	LYNN/0144	8734
24945	7590	02/18/2004	EXAMINER	
STREETS & STEELE 13831 NORTHWEST FREEWAY SUITE 355 HOUSTON, TX 77040			BOS, STEVEN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1754	

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/071,872

Applicant(s)

SINGH, WAHEGURU PAL

Examiner

Steven Bos

Art Unit

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 47-50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-18, 20-23, 25, 32-38, 41, 46 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 19, 24, 26-31, 39, 40 and 42-45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 042202 & 111703.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

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In claims 1-3,6,11,34-36,39,47,48, "one or more metal anion complex" is ungrammatical and should be -- complexes --.

In claim 1, line 6, it would be clearer to recite -- the one or more anion complexes --.

In claim 1, last line, "amines" should not be plural.

In claims 17,18, "are between" is ungrammatical; it should be -- is between --.

In claims 34-36,39, "comprises" should be -- comprise -- after making the above noted change in these claims.

In claim 49, "amines are" should be -- amine is --.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 37,38,41,51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 37,38, "the diquatary ammonium halide" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 41, "the Pd anion complex" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 41, "the Pt anion complex" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

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In claim 51, e, "the second valuable metal anions" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 51, f, "the aqueous solution" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 51, f, "the selectively bound second valuable metal anions" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 51, g, "steps" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s) as the steps of the claim are not recited as such.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3,6-18,20-23,25,32-38,46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ZA 8006992.

ZA '992 suggests the instantly claimed process of extracting silver and platinum group metal anion complexes, which would include the instantly claimed Pt, Pd, and Rh, from an acidic aqueous solution containing same with a diquatarnary ammonium compound in a water immiscible organic solvent. The taught diquatarnary ammonium compound is the same as the instantly claimed diquatarnary amine compound. The taught diquatarnary ammonium compound may also be considered an iodide. See pp.

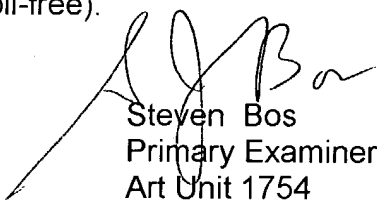
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2,3,4,9,10, examples and the claims. The taught examples suggest the instantly claimed concentrations of diquatary amines.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Bos whose telephone number is 571-272-1350. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-6PM but is on increased flexitime sch.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven Bos
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754

sjb